



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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### ***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

Public Act 288 of 1986 created the Michigan work-study (MWS) program, patterned after a federal work-study program and administered by the Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority (MHEAA), which provides funds to degree-granting postsecondary schools for use in creating work-study opportunities for students. A work-study allows a student to supplement other financial aid by working on or near campus during the school year, without having to incur additional debt from student loans. The act, however, does not allow a student who works under the program to continue working (and earning money for school) during various school breaks, such as over the summer or during the holiday season. This apparently is inconsistent with the college work-study program (CWS) is the federal counterpart to MWS), which allows students who intend to return to school after a break to continue working at their CWS job during the break. Some feel making the state program consistent with the federal program would prevent confusion among students applying for either or both programs, and would give students more opportunity to earn money under the program when school was not actually in session.

### ***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The bill would amend Public Act 288 of 1986 to specify that a student could participate in the MWS program during a period when he or she was not enrolled at an eligible postsecondary school if all of the following were true:

- The student was otherwise eligible under the program;
- The student had been enrolled in at least a half-time undergraduate program of study at an eligible institution for the preceding quarter, term, or semester; and
- The postsecondary school's financial aid officer determined that the period during which the student was not enrolled would not exceed 4 months and the student had enrolled or signed an intent to enroll in at least a half-time undergraduate program of study at the school for the next succeeding quarter, term, or semester.

Also, the act currently specifies various criteria for a nonprofit employer to meet in order to employ students under the MWS program. One of the criteria specifies that the employer cannot employ MWS students to work on or at a facility used for sectarian instruction or for religious worship, or for activities espousing a particular political or moral position. The bill would amend this to specify that work which involved "promoting a partisan political position or candidate" would not qualify under the act.

MCL 390.1375

### ***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill would not affect state expenditures. (1-10-90)

## **ELIGIBILITY FOR MI WORK-STUDY PROGRAM**

House Bill 4857 as passed by the House  
Second Analysis (1-17-90)

RECEIVED

Sponsor: Rep. Mary C. Brown  
House Committee: Colleges & Universities  
Senate Committee: Education & Mental Health

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### ***ARGUMENTS:***

#### ***For:***

The bill would permit MWS students, like their CWS counterparts, to continue working and earning financial aid over a school break (i.e. during summer or the holidays) under the MWS program. Adding this language to the act would coordinate the state program with the federal program to the benefit of students and the MHEAA, the administrator of both programs.

#### ***Against:***

Why should students who choose a career in politics or public service be denied an equal opportunity under the MWS program? To do so is unfair and discourages students from becoming involved in a career which is not just legitimate but highly honorable as well. The original version of the bill would allow students involved in certain political activities to qualify under the program.

### ***POSITIONS:***

The Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority supports the bill. (1-17-90)

The American Association of University Professors supports the bill. (1-10-90)

The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan supports the bill. (1-12-90)

The President's Council on State Colleges and Universities supports the bill but feels MWS funds generally should only be available to eligible students who are currently enrolled in school. (1-10-90)

H.B. 4857 (1-17-90)